



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

March 7, 2012

The Honorable Mike Beebe
State Capitol, Room 250
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Governor Beebe:

During the week of September 20, 2010, staff from the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) program from the U.S. Department of Education conducted the first of two monitoring reviews of your State's implementation of the SFSF program. Your State's SFSF contacts were extremely helpful in coordinating and responding to this desk review.

During the monitoring review, we discussed your State's policies, procedures, and activities related to the SFSF program. We spoke with officials at local educational agencies (LEAs) and public institutions of higher education (IHEs) that have received Education Stabilization Fund grants, as well as with representatives of entities that have received Government Services Fund grants. A complete description of the scope of the monitoring review and the SFSF monitoring protocols are available on the Department's website at www.ed.gov/programs/statestabilization/applicant.

The Department found that the State implemented the program expeditiously and effectively in order to meet the financial needs of LEAs, IHEs, and other State agencies. The results of our review demonstrate Arkansas's commitment to ensuring that the funds were spent quickly, while balancing the need for accountability and transparency. Throughout the monitoring process, subrecipients commented on the responsiveness of the State and were appreciative of the assistance provided to them.

The Department identified issues regarding the State's implementation of the program in the areas of LEA applications and fiscal oversight. These issues have now been resolved.

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The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

The Department is grateful for the cooperation and responsiveness of the staff in Arkansas. Monitoring not only helps States to achieve high-quality implementation but also helps the Department to improve its role as an advisor and partner with States in this effort. As we work together, we want this process to be interactive and helpful.

We will be contacting your office in the future to schedule the second monitoring review of the State's implementation of the SFSF program. We look forward to collaborating with you and the other officials in Arkansas who are working on this critical educational initiative.

Sincerely,

Ann Whalen
Director, Policy and Program Implementation
Implementation and Support Unit